

Virginia



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Virginians.**

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL

In Virginia, USDA helped Appalachian Sustainable Development purchase a used box truck to transport locally grown produce and eggs to food brokers and regional supermarkets. The program will support new growers, organic farming and the development of community and school gardens.

Local food sales were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2014. In Virginia, USDA has invested in 756 local food projects, helping to develop food hubs, small-scale processing, farmers markets and other market opportunities in local food.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **210 rural businesses in Virginia thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms. **Rural manufacturing supports 48,416 jobs in Virginia.** USDA has invested **\$31.1 million** to help rural manufacturers in **Virginia** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2013, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$1.2 billion** to **Virginia's** economy. The President’s Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **22,465 Virginia families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$103.9 million** in telecommunications projects serving **rural Virginians**, which has helped to expand access to state-of-the-art health care, educational, and cultural resources and helps rural businesses compete in the global economy.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$366.2 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Virginians** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.